James Monroe.

Persia Takes the Up Grade

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roads—which never had really been "roads" since the days of Nadir Shah, but for the most part worn pathways over which the pad footed camels were wont to move in long procession—the freight trains of the East.

In this matter of wages one may read the change that is coming to Persia. I have emphasized the miserable wage of the rug weavers, because knowing something of rugs and their making, and knowing further that rug making and the raising of the wool for it were the chief sources of Persian revenue, the latest development in the rug industry—resultant from this new dawn in the matter of wages—bears out to the letter a belief which I have been industriously preaching for the last decade, to wit, that so soon as the sunrise of industrial activity, as we understand the term, should come to Persia, and its people have any means of making a decent living, the weaving of rugs by hand would speedily cease. I have contended that the Oriental rug, even in its modern phases, so different from the old, was coming to an end. Nobody would believe it.

The war is over, but still the road makers are getting $2 a day in Persia. It doesn't take much arithmetic to figure out that this is twenty times what a weaver can get for making rugs. And with oil royalties and good roads Persia's face is set toward solvency and rehabilitation. For a hundred years past the Persian has made rugs because he had to have the barley bread inside him at intervals and there was no other ghost of a way of getting it. But with every step ahead in general industry, in work for the head and hands, it becomes more and more unlikely that the Persian population is going to keep on tying knots, at bread and water wages, which will make it possible for his product to pay the duties imposed by an American tariff and still compete with the product of the mechanical looms.

The very best proof that this is sound sense is that the great rug corporation which for nearly two decades has controlled the great volume of Persian weaving is passing from the Persian field and setting up its commercial looms in China, where labor is still cheap, and India, where with a weaving caste of millions the rug making can still be done at the rate of a few *annas* a day.

But the spirit of change is in Asia. Whether it comes from the outside or inside is another question, but it is certain as sunrise that the pendulum has started for the East. When India and China shall have fallen into line the man who has the old time rugs will have something to show to his admiring neighbors, and somebody will be mining the anthracite in the grim mountains of Kurdistan. The manure will be going to the farm lands in Iran and there will be timber enough again on her mountain sides to build a barn here and there, and something to put in the barn when it is builded.

But it will be a modern Persia—perhaps a Europeanized Persia.

Mrs. Piper: 1881-1920

PAST AND PRESENT WITH MRS. PIPER. By Anne Manning Robbins. Henry Holt & Co.

IN the "Psychic Series," for which, as is well known, Mr. Henry Holt stands sponsor, no volume can be more highly valued by the many persons interested in psychic phenomena than "Past and Present With Mrs. Piper." In this book Miss Anne Manning Robbins includes in condensed form much of the matter contained in "Both Sides of the Veil," which was published in 1909, and also her phychic experiences since that date in connection with Mrs. Piper, the most famous American medium, down to two years ago. Miss Robbins was present at the early seances, even before Dr. Hodgson and William James. She has kept voluminous data relating to these extraordinary experiences of her own since 1881; and besides the revision of those early accounts she has here recorded much new and absorbing detail concerning incidents in her intercourse with Mrs. Piper during the last ten or twelve years.

James Monroe in New York

By E. N. VALLANDIGHAM.

SO James Monroe, and the "doctrine" forever linked with his name, are to have a memorial in the very house in Prince street, where upon his deathbed he suffered the last of many painful humiliations! A philantropic New Yorker has bought the neglected property and will restore it, so that it will remain an appropriate landmark where the public is welcome. He came to live in New York, not long before his death, broken in health and fortune, having sold his handsome home, Oak Hill, in Virginia. Jefferson died six years before Monroe, barely in time to escape the humiliation of selling Monticello, and John Quincy Adams, his grandson says, would have been as poor as Monroe had not his son put him practically under financial guardianship a dozen years before his death.

Monroe lived in New York with his son-in-law, James Lawrence Gouverneur, whom John Quincy Adams, as Monroe's successor in the Presidency, had appointed Postmaster of New York, as he had appointed another son-in-law of Monroe to the Federal bench. Monroe had appointed none of his kinsmen to office, but there was a friendly understanding among Presidents and ex-Presidents in those days based, perhaps, upon their common condition of financial embarrassment.

Gouverneur's father had been a gay person in New York and at Washington, owner of a famous race horse, Post Boy, and giver of notable dinners at the capital, at one of which, as a guest afterwards testified, seventeen baskets of champagne were served. Monroe's mainstay probably did not inherit much from that gay father; at any rate he lived in a simple three story brick house of no great size, as any one may learn by visiting the "raggery" in Prince street at Lafayette place.

Monroe's Oak Hill is a noble looking mansion, with finely hand wrought woodwork, and two rich marble mannions made for it in Italy at the order of Lafayette.

James Monroe's snubs and humiliations began early and kept occurring all through his life. He was recalled suddenly by Washington from the mission to Paris. Jefferson "pocketed" a treaty that Monroe had negotiated with England, and curbed Monroe's wish to succeed him in the Presidency, by making Madison the heir. When Monroe put in a proper bill of expenses for his services abroad Madison neglected to pass upon it, and Monroe was too delicate to do anything about the matter so long as he himself was President. When Congress finally made an appropriation to pay the cost of Monroe's missions abroad the money was not enough to meet his debts. False charges of speculation in Washington building lots were brought against Monroe, and unpleasant things were said of him when nearly a thousand acres of his land in Virginia was sold over his head to pay local debts. Lafayette, whom Monroe had helped out of difficulties, offered the ex-President half the lands in Florida voted Lafayette by Congress, but Monroe was too sensitive to accept the gift.

Although Monroe must have recalled with pleasure the New York of his youth, where he had married the lovely Elizabeth Kortright in 1786, he met in this city after his retirement from the Presidency a snub of the most painful kind at the hands of another lovely New York woman, Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton, the widow of Alexander Hamilton. That proud woman, who outlived her husband fifty years, did not outlive her belief that Monroe had played a discreditable part in the scandal that led Hamilton, in protection of his public repute, to confess to the world that he had deeply wronged his wife. Monroe, old and worn, made the strange mistake of calling upon the widow. She looked at his card, and hesitated as to receiving him, until her nephew reminded her that he had been President and that everybody was doing him honor. When Monroe entered the room she stood facing him and did not ask him to sit down. He bowed and said a few conciliatory words as to the years that had gone by since they had met. She answered that if he had come to say he was sorry for having slandered her husband, she could understand his visit, but if not, she must tell him that no lapse of time nor nearness to the grave could change her attitude toward him. When he had heard her out, he took up his hat and turning left the room.

On June 19, 1831, fifteen days before his death, Monroe, then upon his deathbed, made affidavit in answer to the bitter and humiliating letter of James Rhea, former Member of Congress from Tennessee, charging him with falsehood in the matter of Jackson's invasion of Spanish Florida, thirteen years before. Jackson had entered his campaign against the Seminole Indians after sending to Monroe a letter offering to conquer Florida from the Spaniards if Monroe would send word of approval through some such safe person as "Johnny" Rhea. The letter found Monroe sick abed at the White House. Calhoun opened it in his presence, read a line or two, apparently enough to catch its tenor, and told Monroe it was a matter for his private consideration. Monroe says he put the letter aside without knowing what it proposed, and forgot it until after Jackson had gone into Florida, captured a Spanish fortified place, hanged two Englishmen, and conducted himself as if acting by the authorization of the President. Jackson authorization of the President. Monroe reproved Jackson very gently, and Jackson said nothing of having received the letter from Rhea, although there was a movement in Congress to call Jackson to account for his conduct.

Nobody has ever fully cleared up the question of veracity between Monroe and Jackson. Both were reputed truthful men, and both were old men, Monroe especially broken in health, when the question was revived in 1831, because of Jackson's quarrel with Calhoun. As Rhea was the least important person concerned in the affair the historians have been inclined to take it for granted that he was the liar. But Rhea, as a descendant of his wrote to the writer of this article, was the well educated son of a Scotch Irish Presbyterian minister who came to America in 1769 and was highly regarded. Rhea served eighteen years in Congress, and seems to have stood well throughout his life. He was probably not untruthful, but the cruel letter to the dying Monroe, which perhaps would not have been sent had Rhea known of his illness, was written when Rhea was nearly 80 years old, and of blurred memory. Jackson had sent him several letters before Rhea managed to recall the details of the affair. Jackson always maintained that he had Rhea's certification of Monroe's approval for the conquest of Florida, and asserted that Rhea's letter had disappeared from his letter book. Rhea had had more than one interview with Monroe after Jackson had written proposing to invade Florida, and in at least one such interview Monroe had warmly praised Jackson. It has been guessed that Rhea took this general praise for a non-committal approval of Jackson's proposal, and this view is set forth as plausible by George Morgan, Monroe's latest biographer. Jackson's conduct was precisely such as a venturesome General would have entered upon after sending such a letter to the President, and the Administration, although it disavowed Jackson's acts, accepted their fruits. An American Admiral off St. Nicholas Mole during Grover Cleveland's first Administration, when there was disorder in Haiti, was advised by his flag Lieutenant, an up and coming person, to seize the country in the name of the United States and trust to the acceptance of the gift by the Administration at Washington; but the Admiral, recalling President Grant's vain efforts to annex Santo Domingo, feared not only disavowal, but court-martial and loss of rank, and declined to do the trick. Jackson needed no prompter, and his performance was successful. Incidentally the adventure led to Jackson's quarrel with Calhoun, made Van Buren Jackson's successor, and had far-reaching consequences up to the civil war.